

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for folding sheets, comprising;

conveying a sheet in a feed direction (F) in a state in which the sheet lies horizontally in a feed ~~plane~~plane;

feeding the sheet to at least two actively run incipient-folding rollers by a rectilinear knife, which can be moved perpendicularly to the feed plane in a first direction towards the actively run incipient-folding rollers,

_____wherein the sheet is received between said actively run incipient-folding rollers in order to form a ~~fold~~fold;

conveying the folded sheet further in the first direction by said actively run incipient-folding rollers perpendicularly to the feed plane, wherein the folded sheet is received between at least two removal rollers; and

conveying the folded sheet away in the direction of the fold by the removal rollers without completely closing the sheet.
2. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, as the sheet is conveyed away, the sheet is positioned on a saddle aligned in the direction of the fold.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the removal rollers receive the sheet in the region of the fold and convey the sheet away while the lateral borders of the sheet are at least partially located between the feed plane and the actively run incipient-folding rollers.

5. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actively run incipient-folding rollers are pressed against one another as the sheet moves through them and are spaced apart from one another as the sheet is conveyed away.

6. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the removal rollers are pressed against one another as the sheet is conveyed away and are spaced apart from one another as the sheet is conveyed through the actively run incipient-folding rollers.

7. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the feed direction (F) and the direction of the fold correspond to one another.

8. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a feed arrangement for feeding the sheet, and for conveying away the folded sheet in the feed direction (F).

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for folding sheets having a knife which has a rectilinear top edge, located parallel to the feed plane, and can be moved perpendicularly to the feed plane, having at least two actively run incipient-folding rollers which are arranged parallel to the feed plane and of which the axes of rotation run parallel to the edge in each case, and having at least two removal rollers for conveying the folded sheet away in the direction of fold, of which the axes of rotation run perpendicularly to the feed plane and which are arranged on a side of the actively run incipient-folding rollers opposite the knife.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, which comprises a saddle which is intended for receiving folded sheets and is arranged downstream of the knife.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the actively run incipient-folding rollers can be moved in relation to one another so as to form between them a gap in which the sheet can be displaced as ~~it~~ the sheet is conveyed away.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, which comprises a feed arrangement for feeding a horizontally lying sheet, in a feed direction (F), into the region between the knife and the actively run incipient-folding rollers.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the top edge of the knife is aligned in the feed direction (F).

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the feed arrangement comprises at least two transporting belts which are arranged to the sides of the knife, parallel to the knife.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, which comprises a stop for feed sheets, said stop being arranged in the feed plane downstream of the knife and perpendicularly to the feed direction (F).

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the distance of the removal rollers from the feed plane is less than half the sheet width.

17. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the folded sheet is conveyed away while end portions of the sheet remain parallel to the feed plane.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the removal rollers direct the sheet to the side of the actively run incipient-folding rollers.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the removal rollers direct the sheet to the side of the actively run incipient-folding rollers that is away from the feed plane.

20. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the sheet is folded with a grain direction transverse to the fold.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the sheet is folded with a grain direction transverse to the fold.

22. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actively run incipient-folding rollers are rotated about an axis of rotation running parallel to a top edge of the knife and the removal rollers are rotated about an axis of rotation running perpendicular to the feed plane.

23. (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is held open by resting on a transporting belt with edges which remain beneath the actively run incipient-folding rollers.

24. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the sheet is held open by resting on a transporting belt with edges which remain beneath the actively run incipient-folding rollers.

25. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the removal rollers are arranged above the actively run incipient-folding rollers and preferably arranged at the smallest possible distance from the actively run incipient-folding rollers.